

## June 8, 2012, CEQ Bay-Delta Interagency Briefing Summary

3:00 to 4:10 pm EST

### Attendees:

Jay Jensen (CEQ)	Robert Vandermark (CEQ)	Roger Gorke(EPA)
Letty Belin (DOI)	Mike Connor (DOI-Reclamation)	David Nawi (DOI)
Sally Ericsson (OMB)	Eileen Sobeck (DOI)	Eric Schwaab (NOAA)
Paul Robershotte (USACE)		

Meeting Agenda: (see attached)

### Key Points:

- Mike Connor led much of the discussion on the significant developments in BDCP over the past 60 days.
- Recently released analysis (Effects Analysis) lead parties to recognize that Water Contractors' hoped-for conveyance of 5.9 MAF per year was unlikely to get permitted.
- Two State/Federal Workshops were held to attempt to identify what can be permitted recognizing both ESA and CA Co-Equal Goal legislation must be met.
- A significantly revised Project Proposal is taking shape. The primary elements which have changed include:
  - Project will be driven by ESA-related **Biological Goals & Objectives** that contribute to recovery of the species.
  - New Conveyance **Infrastructure** consisting of 3 North of Delta Diversion locations with a max capacity of 9,000 cfs feeding a gravity fed tunnel under the Delta still utilizing Dual Conveyance through the Delta (previously 5 Diversions, 15,000 cfs, pumped tunnel).
  - Due to increasing recognition of future uncertainties, highly Specified Operating Criteria will be deferred and the Operations process will be lead by a **Decision Tree Framework** that commits to an integrated science program.
  - The "BDCP Project" will recognize more is needed and thus, attention will be given to other watershed issues and opportunities. This is being referred to as "**BDCP Plus**".
  - **Guarantees and Assurances** desired by State DWR and State Water Contractors are now off the table.
- The group recognized the importance of proactive Public engagement and high quality communication in sync with the State. Three documents are under development (1. A Q&A Factsheet; 2. The Decision Tree description; 3. Elements of the Draft BDCP Project Proposal)
- Major issues associated with financing the project remain unanswered.
- Release date for the dEIS/EIR will likely be delayed beyond the September 2012 timeframe.
- Work on BDCP Plus is underway to show stronger commitment to other needed improvements in the watershed. Categories including Conservation, Reuse (Title 16), Add'l Storage, Add'l Restoration were mentioned as possible categories.

- Late July 2012 is still being targeted for the joint State/Federal BDCP announcement involving Governor Brown and Secretary Salazar.

USACE Issues & Opportunities: I did not share the following with the group, but I believe issues and opportunities involving the Corps include:

1. USACE Regulatory Role for CWA, Section 10, and Section 408: A lot is being done here. BG Wehr, COL Leady and I have a meeting with Jerry Meral & Mark Cowin on 25 June at SPD.
2. Accelerated interest in Ecosystem improvement and Flood risk reduction in the Delta could be met, in part, with the USACE CW project activity. DLIFS & LSP Projects could play a major role in addressing Fremont Weir, Yolo Bypass, Cache Slough, McCormack-Williamson Tract, and Emergency Water Pathway pass Bacon Island. This could also fill the BDCP "financing gap".
3. Delta Levees and USACE Levee Vegetation concerns must be addressed. Much of the ecosystem restoration and riparian habitat improvements will be in adjacent to either project or non-project levees.
4. BDCP Plus attention on restoration improvement could bring even more interest to such investigations as the Yuba Watershed Fish Passage improvement (Chinook, Steelhead & Green Sturgeon).
5. BDCP Plus attention on storage improvement could bring more attention to Systems-oriented, Coordinated Forecast-based Reservoir Reoperations review where the Corps influences 6 MAF of flood storage across 51 facilities in California (31-Corps owned, 20-Section 7 Reservoirs).